LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

#517 April 18, 1973

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CREDIT: GUARDIAN/LNS

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[CREDIT CORRECTION FOR PACKET #516: Audrey Schirmer is the woman who took the photo on the cover.]

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Schofield Coryell--Paris
Mark Wilson--Montreal
Richard Trench--Belfast

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took some men to the home of a city judge. There they apprehended eight Green Berets attempting to kidnap him. They were arrested and traded for the mayor and the chief of police.

When the action came out in the papers, the National Guard would have no comment on it. "Despite the National Guard's silence," said the Times, it was confirmed today that as part of its insurgency-activity training, Special Forces teams have been assigned to declare themselves in charge of Alabaster . . ."

So, it seems as though the Green Berets are becoming more and more of a presence on the national scene, particularly in poor communities where some "risk of social agitation might be expected." As "A History of Special Forces" puts it:

"Special Forces soldiers have gained friends for themselves and the U.S. through their actions during the past twenty years. They have aided our allies and fought against our enemies in times of war. They have worked to alleviate suffering and improve lives in times of peace. The Green Berets are professionals in the business of helping--and that is one business where professionals will always be needed."

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[Thanks to Seed's Catalogue, Camp News and Jay Lochard of the Ft. Bragg GI Project.]

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IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON

CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL STOPS ALL
STRIP MINING PROJECTS ON MONTANA RESERVATION

LIBERATION News Service

"We see prosperity from the coal, but we also see many thousands of white people--perhaps 30,000 miners and technicians and the people to serve them, when we are only a few thousand. We see a population explosion with bars, beer taverns, and discrimination against our people. My people are not competitive in the white man's sense and will be left out, swept aside.

"So it is not only some coal we lose, and the damage to our lands, for a few million dollars. It is our life."

-- Tom Gardner, a 37-year old Cheyenne who is the Northern Cheyenne Reservation's antipoverty and community action director.

LAME DEER, Montana (LNS)--Late in March, Indian leaders on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in eastern Montana instructed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cancel billions of dollars worth of strip mining leases granted in recent years to four of the country's largest coal companies.

Under the tan sandstone buttes and the rolling, grassy river bottoms of the 415,000 acre reservation--an isolated land grant 100 miles east of Billings to which the Cheyenne were driven in 1884--there lies one of the richest unmined coal beds in the western United States.

In a letter earlier in March to the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Billings, representatives of the Northern Cheyenne charged that the bureau, as the Indians' trustee, had failed to get a fair price for leases on the several billion tons of low-sulphur coal and had failed to prepare the detailed studies now required by Federal law of the environmental impact of strip mining on their land.

Although no coal has yet been mined on Northern Cheyenne lands, the tribe's lease-breaking demand came within days of a public commitment by the Peabody Coal Co., the nation's largest strip-mine operator and a subsidiary of Kennecott Copper Co., to begin a $700 million mining investment there.

Peabody, whose 16,000 acre coal lease on the reservation in one of those being challenged, announced that together with the Northern National Gas Co., and the Cities Service Gas Co., they planned to mine 500 million tons of Cheyenne coal for a proposed complex of as many as four coal gasification plants.

The first two plants which are scheduled to be converting coal to gas by 1979, would require 16 million tons of coal a year. The two eight-million-ton-a-year strip mines proposed would be among the largest in the country.

In addition to Peabody, Consolidated Coal Co.--owned by Continental Oil and second only to Peabody in annual tonnage of coal mines--proposed a $1 billion, billion-ton-a-year coal development on the reservation about a year ago. Consol also offered to build a $1.5 million Lame Deer medical center as part of the deal, but the entire project was rejected by the tribal council.

Cheyenne spokesmen have said that it was Consol's offer to negotiate--without bidding--an exclusive block of coal leases at $35 an acre that "opened the Indians' eyes" to the prices of the other leases obtained by the Indian Affairs Agency.

The agency, acting for the Northern Cheyenne, has auctioned exploration permits and leases on roughly half of the reservation since 1966 for $1 an acre, and with production payments to the tribe of 17.5 cents a ton rather than the 25 cents a ton offered by Consol. As of this year, the tribe has received some $2.5 million in payment for leases and exploration permits.

An exploration permit gives a company permission to survey a particular area to see what mineral deposits are present. If, after that survey, a company decides that the deposits--in this case coal--are worth mining, it will apply for a lease to begin excavation.

Two other large corporations, American Metals Clamax and Chevron Oil, currently hold Indian agency coal exploration permits on more than 250,000 acres of the reservation. These too have been cancelled.

Hostility towards the various strip mining projects has been growing among the Northern Cheyenne for some time now. In November of 1972, elections for the 13-member tribal council were held and about a third of the old council was changed. Strip mining was the main issue in the election.

Also in the fall of 1972, the Northern Cheyenne Landowners Association came into being. The Association is made up of the tribal council which owns some reservation land, as well as individual Indians who own land, and those Indians who lease their land to white men. They set about to inform the Cheyenne about strip mining and its impact on the land.

As part of their work the Association organized a panel discussion and tribal meeting in early March which was attended by about 300 local Lame Deer people. The panel was composed of Cheyenne, Navajos and a local environmentalist.

The Navajo speakers, Robert Salabye and Marian Crawford, were especially eloquent in their opposition to strip mining. And because both are from the Four Corners region they spoke with first hand knowledge.

(The Four Corners region--where the states of Colorodo, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico meet--is the site of a massive energy project sponsored by several utilities companies. The project--six huge coal--is intended to provide electricity for several southern California cities. So far, 2 plants are now completed, 3 are under construction, and 1 is in the planning stage, but at no little cost to the inhabitants of the area, many of whom are Indians.)

Marian Crawford told of dammed rivers, stolen water rights, and how Peabody Coal is presently tearing sacred Navajo land apart to fuel urban centers hundreds of miles from Navajo land. She spoke of Peabody's methods of operation, describing how they come into an area, extract what they want and then leave. The people who remain have nothing but scarred land and polluted air.

"The coal companies will offer you money and services," she said, "but don't think they care

about you. If there was no coal the white men would not be there."

This is sacred land to us," explained another Navajo woman who was present at the discussion. "Imagine what they would say is there was a bull-dozer in Bethlehem."

After the Navajos spoke, Clancy Gordon, a professor of biology at the University of Montana talked about the reclamation of soil after strip mining. According to Gordon, present technology is totally incapable of restoring the ecological balance of the soil after the strip mining machines have torn it apart.

So far, neither the coal companies involved, nor the federal government have commented on the Northern Cheyenne's order to nullify all leases and permits, although a Justice Department statement is expected sometime in the near future. But it is hard to imagine any anti strip mining sympathy from them given the massive advertizing campaigns that the big oil companies put out--and that Nixon supports-- about the "energy crisis." They maintain the need for projects like the one Peabody proposes for eastern Montana and has already carried out in the Four Corners region despite the evidence of environmental devastation and the further exploitation of the Indians. There are other alternative energy sources like wind and solar energy which are relatively cheap, ecological and efficient. But because they don't offer much hope for profitable exploitation, research and development stagnates in favor of strip mining.

Opposition among the Indians is strong, though. "If you are a Montanan and give a damn about Montana, your stand on coal stripping naturally has to be a stand of opposition!" wrote Dale Kindness, a young Crow Indian from southeastern Montana, in a recent issue of the state-wide alternative paper, Borrowed Times.

"...Indians have lost an entire continent to the whites and now have reservations to live on. Are we to lose our reservations next? I wonder how long it will be until some outside white men come down to mid-southeastern Montana and say, 'Hey Cheif, I wanna buy that air you're breathing."

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(Thanks to Borrowed Times and the Northern Plains Resource Center for much of this information.)

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"Divine right went out with the American Revolution and doesn't belong to White House aides. What meat do they eat that makes them grow so great? I am not willing to elevate them to a position above the great mass of the American people. I don't think we have any such thing as royalty or nobility that exempts them. . . .That is not Executive privilege. It is Executive poppycock."

--Senator Sam Ervin, chairman of the Senate committee looking into the Watergate case, in response to Nixon's contention that his implicated White House aides don't have to testify in front of the committee because of a president's executive privilege.

NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN TRIBE MARCHES TO STATE CAPITAL TO DEMAND GOV'T RECOGNITION

LIBERATION News Service

"This movement is our last chance to make it through as a distinctive culture group. Either we are going to be Tuscarora or we're going to disappear, become hidden, second-class citizens in the homogenized white man's America."

-- Chief Howard Brooks, of the United Tuscarora Peoples

RALEIGH, N.C. (LNS) -- In early April, as Wounded Knee occupied the front pages of most American newspapers, Indians in this coastal section of North Carolina joined together to begin to resurrect the traditions and identity of the once powerful Tuscarora nation.

Their first step, as the United Tuscarora Peoples, was a march to the state capital of Raleigh to present the governor, James Holshauser, with a series of demands. More than 200 Tuscaroras marched the 85 miles to the capital and on the way about 150 were arrested for violating a no-march ordinance in Smithfield, North Carolina -- a town known as the stronghold of North Carolina's Klu Klux Klan.

The ordinance was later declared unconstitutional by the Eastern District Court in Richmond, Va. All of the child marchers were released on the day they were arrested, along with some of the older marchers who could post bail. About 26 Indian, black and white marchers remained in jail overnight and then were freed.

The United Tuscaroras were led by Chief Howard Brooks, elected in January in proceedings conducted by the American Indian Movement (AIM). Brooks won over two opponents by a wide margin. One of his opponents, Carnell Locklear, is secretary of the government-backed Eastern Carolina Tuscarora Indian Organization.

This group did not exist before 1970. At that time, "he (Locklear) just made his group up, appointed himself as its head, and started collecting funds," said Chief Brooks. "He wasn't ever elected by anybody."

And collect he did -- over $340,000 in federal grants and direct funding since 1970, which has yet to be accounted for.

At the heart of the United Tuscaroras' demands is their recognition as an "official" tribe by the government. Right now, the Tuscaroras don't exist in the official U.S. government lexicon even though experts say there are more than 40,000 Tuscarora in the Robeson County, North Carolina area. The reason for this bureaucratic anonymity can be found in the Tuscarora's history.

In the late 1700's the Tuscarora Nation was driven from its lands in eastern North Carolina by white settlers. Many of them fled north where they were welcomed by the Iroquois Nation (the Six Nation Confederacy).

But many remained behind, intermarried with blacks and whites and adopted English names and

language Descendants of these "blood-line" Indians now live in Robeson County -- not officially recognized -- but suffering from the same oppression that the Indians of Wounded Knee and the blacks of the south have suffered for years

According to most estimates, more than half of Robeson County is Indian (this includes mixed blood Indians) 39% of the families fall within the government established poverty bracket, 25% of the population is functionally illiterate; 65% of the students in public school drop out before high school graduation

More than 60% of the school population is of Indian or Indian Black Descent, yet the schools of Robeson County are controlled by the whites in the area This control is realized through a procedure called "double voting" Residents of the cities, mostly whites, are able to vote in school board elections for both the city schools that their children attend, and for the county school boards which supervise the predominantly Indian schools

The abolishment of "double voting" and Indian control of these schools is another primary demand of the United Tuscarora Peoples

There is a possibility that the Tuscaroras will demand a reservation-land-base similar to those of the western tribes which are run on a semi-autonomous basis

The Tuscaroras are also demanding either return, or atleast compensation for what is now Pembroke State College Pembroke was founded by Henry Lowry, a Tuscarora Indian, for the purpose of providing Tuscaroras and Native Americans in general, with higher education Until 1952, Pembroke issued degrees only to Native Americans

But in 1952, the State claimed the facilities for use as a regional college, and since then Pembroke has maintained a student body which is only 15% Indian "The Pembroke situation is a good example of how the government goes about destroying the culture of the Indians," Chief Brooks said

The interests of blacks and Indians in North Carolina are closely entwined and there is a growing alliance between the United Tuscarora People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference SCLC members marched with the Tuscarora to Raleigh and are currently camping with them in black colleges in the area

"We're breaking down all those old barriers that have divided the people in this region," said Golden Frinks of SCLC "This movement belongs to all the people who realize that their rights have been denied by the white elite"

Right now, the situation for the Tuscaroras is up in the air Governor Holshauser has continued to meet with Chief Brooks unless the Tuscaroras agree to leave Raleigh immediately -- something they will not do And Holshauser also refuses to convene the North Carolina Indian Affairs Commission -- another Tuscarora demand

But the Indians vow to remain in Raleigh until their demands are met As one Afro-American helping to organize support for the action commented "It looks like Robeson County is going to be another Wounded Knee" -30-

(Thanks to Tom Norton and Larry Arrington for the information in this story.)

ANTI-APARTHEID BILL BEFORE N.Y. STATE LEGISLATURE

NEW YORK (LNS) -- "Today, many of our corporations here, ones with household names, run by some of our most prominent and respected business leaders, companies that often carry the phrase 'equal opportunity employer' in their advertising, are deeply involved to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars in the most notorious system of racial oppression -- the apartheid system in South Africa," said New York State Assemblyman Franz Leichter during a press conference held in New York City on April 2.

Leichter then announced the introduction of a new bill before the New York State legislature which would force companies with billion dollar State contracts to follow fair employment practices in South Africa Companies in which the State invests would also be required to follow fair employment practices.

"U.S. companies profit by exploiting the labor of the African majority under the world's only legalized system of racial discrimination," said the assemblyman "They use the system to gain cheap labor. Not only is this practice morally objectionable, but it induces companies to go to South Africa with the loss of jobs and business activities in New York State."

New York State has $84 million and New York City has $162 million of pension funds invested in the top 15 American investors in South Africa and Namibia (South West Africa).

Charles Diggs (D - Michigan) will introduce similar legislation before the House of Representatives this year.

Four New York area groups -- The Committee for a Free Mozambique, The American Committee on Africa, Southern Africa Committee, and the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa -- have provided much research and information about U.S. economic penetration of South Africa for Leichter and the 14 other assemblymen who are sponsoring the bill.

"There's very little chance of it getting through," said a spokeswoman for the Southern Africa Committee "It's a very limited bill -- only a small step -- but getting debate out on the floor of the legislature is still a good thing It helps make people aware."

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SWEDEN NO LONGER A REFUGE FOR AMERICAN DESERTERS

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Sweden, formerly a refuge for deserters and resisters from themilitary, has changed its policy. At least two black GI's have been handed back to U.S. military authorities by Swedish border police.

Previously Sweden had granted "humanitarian" residence permits to GI's and war resisters on the grounds that they were in danger of being sent to Vietnam But with the signing of the cease-fire agreement in January, the Swedish government has decided that it is no longer necessary to provide asylum

"Black soldiers who pointed out that they have [illegible] the army to escape institutional[illegible] racism do not qualify," said one activist in the GI movement Nor do any GI's who oppose the U.S. military's role in other parts of the world -30-

(Thanks to Rita Ast[illegible])

INSIDE PHNOM PENH: THE EVENTS THAT LED UP TO CAMBODIA'S "NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY"

By Elizabeth Decker

LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's note: By the beginning of April, Cambodian liberation forces, usually called the Khmer Rouge, had surrounded the capital city of Phnomh Penh, preventing supplies from reaching the city by blocking all access by road and waterway.

American bombers were called in, and by mid-April, U.S. government sources said that as many as 250 sorties a day were flown overCambodia in order to break the blockade. Supplies were airlifted into the city.

A month before, on March 17, Cambodian president Lon Nol had declared a "national state of emergency." This followed a well-publicized attempt by one of his own Air Force officers to commemorate the third anniversary of the overthrow of Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk by bombing Lon Nol in his palace.

Much of the publicity surrounding this bombing incident focused on the pilot's relationship to Norodom Sihanouk, who now heads the Royal Cambodian Government of National Union (GRUNC) from Peking. The Cambodian liberation forces, estimated at some 50,000, fight under GRUNC's banner.

The pilot, So Potra, is married to Sihanouk's daughter, Princess Botum Bopha. So Potra flew his plane to safety in Khmer Rouge territory, but as a result of his unsuccessful assassination attempt, 16 of Sihanouk's relatives -- members of the royal family -- were put under house arrest.

The assassination attempt also provided an excuse for further precautions on Lon Nol's part; besides arresting members of the royal family, he arrested other distinguished citizens, shut down all non-government presses, and enforced a curfew stricter than the one that was previously in effect.

Although no plot to overthrow Lon Nol was uncovered in the days following the bombing, the president did have some reason to fear for his personal and political safety. After all, So Patra was not the only Cambodian to find fault with the notoriously corrupt Lon Nol government.

As a New York Times correspondent in Phnom Penh said a week later, "The Popularity and credibility of President Lon Nol have sunk so low that the predominant reaction to last Saturday's bombing of the Presidential Palace was regret that the disgruntled Cambodian Air Force pilot who carried out the lone attack missed his target."

Lon Nol's popularity has been declining for a long time, but it plunged in February when inflation, largely the result of a war economy, combined with governmental corruption and poor planning, sparked strikes and widespread criticism in those areas of Cambodia under "government control." It was in this climate of discontent that the "disgruntled Cambodian Air Force pilot" made his attempt.

In the following story, Elizabeth Decker traces that discontent back as far as August of 1972, and details the events that led up to the "national state of emergency." Although her report was written before the most recent events -- the blockade of Phnom Penh and the intensified American bombing of Cambodia -- it provides a broader perspective to put them in.]

* * *

PHNOM PENH (LNS) -- One lone man, related by marriage to deposed Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, hijacked a plane on March 17 and unknowingly gave Marshal Lon Nol and his tenacious younger brother, Lon Non, the excuse they needed to prohibit all criticism in Cambodia.

Since the middle of February criticism had come from surprisingly varied quarters. The Teachers Society, voicing its concern over the deepening economic crisis, was the first group to openly object to specific government policies. They struck in all "government areas" of Cambodia and quickly closed most schools; many of their students joined the protest and the demands broadened.

The teachers attacked the entire fiscal policy of the government, beginning with the official raise in petroleum prices. The oil price hike, which increased already inflated prices on other basic commodities and for the first time the working class of Cambodia could not afford many of the basic necessities of life. (Cambodia is an underpopulated nation and economically self-sustaining when not in the grips of war.)

War usually brings an increased demand for petroleum products to supply mobile military equipment, aircraft, etc. In order to prevent the price of petroleum from going sky-high on the civilian market, the Cambodian government had been subsidizing petroleum product prices since the beginning of the war.

But now, operating with a tremendous deficit, the government could no longer continue the subsidy. The price hike was in itself a rational policy but the timing was off. Other government policies, as well as the perennial "corruption problem," had already thrown the economy into a serious inflationary situation.

Last August Cambodian farmers failed to produce a bumper rice crop. Because the government had set the official price of rice quite low, many speculators took advantage of the depleted supplies, buying and storing huge quantities and then remarketing the rice at three and four times the official price.

All other prices soared and government patchwork policies only delayed the crisis which bloomed again with the oil price hikes this February, leading to the Teachers Strike and ultimately to the events of March 17.

The teachers began their strike on February 20, asking for an increase in salary and government measures to regulate the prices of all comodities. As the government failed to respond, the

teachers became more vocal, publicly demonstrating and encouraging their students to follow

On March 12, in the southern town of Kompot, a group of students and teachers were demonstrating when suddenly the police moved in and what was planned as a non-violent demonstration turned into a student-police clash. Students were injured but the government officially denied that the police and the students came to blows.

Instead, a few days later, the Lon Nol regime issued a new raft of laws to strictly control public dissent. Among the more notable clauses are those prohibiting any protest "against the person of the president of the republic or the republic itself."

The National Assemblymen -- another traditionally conservative sector of Cambodian society -- began aiming their political concern at the ineffective government economic policies too. Calling five of Lon Nol's ministers to their chambers, they demanded that each answer detailed questions on the crisis and asked them to present alternative measures to the Assembly.

Two days before the March 17 bombing of the palace, the Assembly had asked all of the ministers to return for the final inquiry But fearing an open denunciation of the government or, possibly, a move to recall some of the ministers, President Lon Nol asked that the five men in question be excused from the meeting so that they might be on hand to greet the visiting Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

* * *

By March 17 the stage had been set for some type of confrontation but only an absurdist could have entitled the eventful Saturday "An Expression of Joy." That was the theme chosen by Lon Nol for the celebration of the third anniversary of the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and those words were written on banners draped across the broad French boulevards of Phnom Penh.

While government bureaucrats and soldiers were building platforms and arranging seating for the traditional opera, theatre, orchestra and dance to be performed on March 18, teachers were openly defying the new demonstration laws on the campus of Phnom Penh's Faculty of Pedagogy.

The crowd of five thousand had espected trouble and had taken strict security precautions. While the speeches expanded beyond economic issues and into the realm of "people's councils" and democratic representation, everyone had one eye on the gates to the courtyard.

Towards the end of the open-air meeting the inevitable occurred Three armed civilians rushed to the podium and physically harassed the speaker. Students surrounded the men and made a citizens arrest, demanding that the men show their identification cards to the crowd. The men produced documents that positively identified them as members of a special security squad of the fifteenth bridade -- the brigade commanded by Lon Non

Just as the students were deciding what to do do next, three fragmentation grenades exploded on the campus grounds; seconds later a fourth was thrown in from outside the gates The three captives escaped during the chaos but some of the students and professors were not so lucky. Two died and ten were seriously wounded.

Just two hours after this demonstration, So Potra, son-in-law of deposed Prince Sihanouk, dropped two bombs on the Camcar Mon Presidential Palace grounds, missing the residence of Marshal Lon Nol, hitting instead the agricultural ministry and the barracks of the Presidential guard. As the town buzzed with rumors of a coup d'etat, So Potra steered his plane towards Krek in northeastern Cambodia, a rubber plantation area under the control of the Khmer Rouge.

So Potra, husband of Princess Botum Bopha, had hijacked a T-28 from Pochentang Military Airbase that morning, with plans to mark the third anniversary of his father-in-law's overthrow by assassinating the president Not only did his plan fail, he completely demolished the wooden barracks of the soldiers guarding the compound -- killing low ranking soldiers and their families, not high government officials Of the forty-seven killed, half were children.

While smoke was still billowing from the ruined barracks, Lon Nol's Minister of Information spoke on a special radio broadcast revealing the identity of the pilot and announcing the first official arrests. Later that evening, Marshal Lon Nol himself got on the radio and declared a "national state of emergency." He claimed that the dare-devil hijacking and bombing was only a part of a larger "sinister plot to overthrow the regime" -- a claim that is still unsubstantiated.

To protect himself against further threats on his life, the Marshal suspended the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of speech, thought, assembly, and press and revoked the rights to privacy of residence and correspondence. His strategy conveniently blocked all avenues of dissent, putting an end to the bothersome protests that had plagued his regime during the past month. And by nightfall, the campus demonstration had almost been forgotten, buried beneath the palace bombing and Lon Nol's decree.

Most diplomats in Phnom Penh termed Lon Nol's flagrant abuses of political power an over-reaction to a single isolated event. At first some bemoaned the effective way in which he had used the bombing incident to end his troubles with the Teachers and the National Assembly.

By the end of the week however, even these left-handed compliments had been revoked. Rather than pulling his country together, President Lon Nol had cut deep into the loyalty of many prominent Cambodians and, in fact, had driven professors and students into the forest to join the Khmer Rouge. The coup d'etat rumors had been transformed into predictions of heightened revolution.

The day after the declaration of the state of emergency no newspapers were available on the streets as all but government controlled dailies and journals

had been banned from circulation. Restaurants and bars closed an hour earlier as the curfew was lowered from 10 p.m. to 9 p.m. Throughout the city, professors, students, intellectuals, members of the royal family and even prominent businessmen were secretly arrested.

Most of those placed under full or house arrest were not notified of the charges against them. By late Tuesday 48 professors had been arrested, 16 members of the royal family were captives in their home, the residence of the Queen Mother, Queen Kossameik. The three sons of Penn Nouth, Sihanouk's Prime Minister in the Peking-based rival government, were imprisoned along with one of the wealthiest merchants in the country, Chau Khong.

Along with these notables were families of many people who had already escaped. The brother of Ek Uth, Director of the strongly critical newspaper Sangkrons Khmer (Cambodian Salvation) was arrested when it was discovered that both Ek Uth and Buoy Sreng, editor of the same newspaper, had left the city. Other high-placed officials were notified personally that under the new "state of emergency," no opposition would be tolerated.

Lon Nol's fear of opposition led him to take fairly drastic measures. The climax of the arrests was the cordoning of the homeof former temporary Prime Minister Sirik Matak, the man who had master-minded the overthrow of Norodom Sihanouk. After cutting his telephone lines and stationing a formidable guard around his residence, the government described these measures as "protection for Sirik Matak, not arrest."

The final casualty of the mass arrests was the commander of the Air Force, So Sotta, who was dismissed because the Cambodian T-28 used to bomb the president's palace had been hijacked from Pochentang.

And the American reaction? The chief benefactors of Lon Nol's regime, supplying this government with $5 million in aid a week, sent the Marshal a telegram after learning of the assassination attempt. Signed by President Nixon, the message gave the ailing leader complete assurance that America would no desert the cause of the "threatened republic."

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(Thanks to Pacific News Service for sending us this story.)

(See graphics section for photos to accompany this article.)

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MAY 1, 1970: Nixon "officially" orders invasion of Cambodia. Hundreds of thousands take to the streets in protest of widening war in Indochina.

MAY 4, 1970: Kent State Massacre. Four anti-war protestors are murdered by "riot-control" troops in Kent, Ohio.

MAY 14, 1970: State police in Jackson, Mississippi open fire on Black students at Jackson State University, killing two.

[Note to editors. See packet #506 for a longer story on the Carabanchel 10. See graphics section in this packet for a collage to accompany this story and the story in packet #506.]

U.S. LAWYERS FORM DEFENSE COMMITTEE FOR SPANISH WORKERS IMPRISONED BY FRANCO REGIME

NEW YORK (LNS) -- At a press conference on Friday, April 13, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Eric Schmidt, a member of the National Lawyers Guild, announced the formation of a U.S. Committee For the Carabanchel 10.

The Carabanchel 10 are Spanish workers active in Spain's growing Worker Commission movement who have been imprisoned for "illegal association" (trying to attend a Workers Commission meeting). They each face up to 20 years in prison. At this time it is not clear whether the public -- or even the press -- will be able to attend their trial, which will be held sometime in May.

Calling the Workers Commission movement "a nationwide movement that hs the allegience of the working people in Spain," Ramsey Clark called for massive U.S. support forit and for the ten prisoners.

The Workers Commissions are a direct response to the government-run vertical syndicates to which every Spanish worker must belong. All other union activity, including meetings of 20 or more persons, is illegal.

Clark went on to condemn the political repression which the Franco regime used to maintain its power. Clark pointed out that in Spain, "there is no right to bargain collectively, no right to strike." The Carabanchel 10 are just a small sampling of the large numbers of Spanish people, workers, professionals and students, who have been imprisoned in Spain for political reasons.

Eric Schmidt, who will serve as the Secretary of the Committee, pointed out that the case of the 10 Commission members.. "the most important political prosecution to take place since the Burgos trial." The Burgos trial, in 1970, involved the courtmartial of members of the Basque liberation movement for kidnapping. Their death sentence was later commuted because of massive public pressure.

Schmidt emphasized the broad support that the Spanish Workers Commission has gained from organized labor all over Western Europe and Canada. In Italy, France, England and Canada, national trade labor organizations have voiced strong support for the Workers Commissions and the Carabanchel 10.

Some of these groups have announced their intention to send observers to the trial in Madrid. In Italy, postal workers announced a boycott of Spanish mail on the day the trial begins. In France, unions announced a boycott of Spanish mail and trains. Some Italian unions are calling for a general strike on the trial's opening day.

However, this massive support, while important, does not get to the heart of the matter. All of those nations combined have less influence over the Franco regime than the United States has.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 ......)

"I CAME TO KNOW THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE:"
RUSSO WEEPS FOR VIETNAM

by John Kincaid

LIBERATION News Service

LOS ANGELES (LNS)--Early in April, in the 14th week of the Pentagon Papers trial, Anthony J. Russo, Jr. took the witness stand in his own defense and delivered a moving account of how he developed anti-war feelings while interviewing National Liberation Front prisoners. At one point breaking down and crying, Russo explained that he and co-defendent Daniel Ellsberg talked extensively and decided that the information in the Pentagon's study should be released "to the Congress and the American people."

"I never received permission" to Xerox the Pentagon Papers, said Russo defiantly as the prosecutor pressed his questions. "I don't receive permission from people to do anything. I think any American who cared about his country, who knew what we knew, would consider it to be an official duty to get these documents to the Congress and to the American people."

Russo said that he and Ellsberg "talked on numerous occasions about how the agreement to keep secrets about crimes that had been committed was, in itself, a criminal thing."

Russo had come a long way from Suffolk, Virginia, where he was born in 1936. He had started out in engineering at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and then on to plasma physics at Princeton and public policy at the Woodrow Wilson School.

He joined the RAND Corporation in 1964 and went to Vietnam in February, 1965, to work with RAND's "so-called Viet Cong Motivation and Morale Project," a U.S. attempt to understand the "enemy."

"My job," explained Russo, "was to administer a team of Vietnamese interviewers. We traveled all over the country. From this project there were over 60,000 pages of interviews with prisoners, defectors and refugees. But there has never been a final report, although there were dozens of research memoranda."

One particular interview with an eductaion cadre had a deep effect on Russo. "This was the strongest man I ever met," explained Russo. "His job had been to go to various villages to teach the young people how to do theater and write songs. He was very committed and very sincere. We talked for two days in the jail. He said he would never give up no matter how much he was tortured, and he had been tortured badly.

"Now, I had thought, until then, that these so-called Viet Cong were indoctrinated fanatics. Well, with that man I learned that there is a difference between indoctrination, fanaticism and real commitment. I found out what he was committed to because he told me how the French had wiped out his entire village. He had joined the movement in 1948 and stayed until he was captured in 1965.

"I knew he was telling the truth because, after many months of being tortured, after sitting in that jail, he, on the second day of the interview, recited poetry to me...a poem he always recited when he got downhearted. We liked one another He sang a song to me. It was a very moving experience. I came to know the Vietnamese people. You see, even now..." Russo could not continue. He and others in the courtroom were weeping. The courtroom was silent.

Later Russo also explained that he wrote a report on anti-personnel weapons for the Air Force. They wanted to know the effects of the weapons. He abstracted the information from the interviews.

"I saw in the interviews many examples of young children who would pick up an anti-personnel weapin that hadn't gone off. A kid would take it home. Then it would go off and kill the family.

"I wrote up a report and was secretly hoping that when the Air Force saw how bad these things were for people, maybe they'd quit using them. But I was very naive. They escaleted their use."

Russo left Vietnam in September, 1966, "because the results of the study were being altered. The reports were being used to promote the role of the Air Force. Lies were being told left and right." He returned to RAND, Santa Monica, and wrote a critique of the study.

In the Spring of 1967, RAND asked Russo to evaluate the U.S. chemical crop destruction program. "My studies showed that for every pound of rice denied the guerrillas, 100 pounds were denied the people in rural South Vietnam. The study had a great effect on me and I recommended that the program be discontinued."

Although Russo and Ellsberg had met in Saigon in 1965, they did not become friends until they found their offices across the hall from each other at RAND in 1968. "We spent a great deal of time talking about our experiences in Vietnam," explained Russo, who left RAND in January 1969 but remained in touch with Ellsberg.

He traveled, worked with the Los Angeles Rumor Control and Information Center in Watts and then joined the L.A. County Probation Department as a researcher.

On or about October 1, 1969, Ellsberg called and asked Russo if he knew anyone who had a Xerox machine. "Do you know that study I told you about?" he asked Russo. "I want to get it out." Russo arranged for the use of a machine at a Los Angeles advertising agency owned by a friend, Lynda Sinay.

Russo testified that the copying occurred on about eight occassions over several weeks. The people present were "Dan, myself, and Lynda Sinay. On occassion there was Robert Ellsberg, Dan's son, and Mary Ellsberg, Dan's daughter. On one night there was a friend of both Dan's and myself named Vu Van Thai" (former South Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S. and RAND consultant). Thai and Sinay are named as unindicted co-conspirators.

Thai remained "no longer than about an hour," according to Russo. "He was waiting for us to go to dinner." He did not assist with the copying. He and Russo talked in another room. At one point, Thai read a few pages that Ellsberg brought to his attention.

During the copying Russo glanced at some of the volumes, but did not read them carefully. He said that Ellsberg always brought the volumes from his Top Secret Safe at RAND and returned them to the safe afterwards. When asked if he knew this from personal knowledge, he replied, "Yes, he told me and he doesn't lie."

On cross-examination which lasted slightly more than a day, Russo said that, at first, Lynda Sinay cut the "top secret" markings from the copies. The original volumes were not altered. "Then," he continued, "I thought of taping a little strip of white paper down on the Xerox so that when the study was laid down on the machine, the "top secret-sensitive' part would be blocked out. We did that because whenever you see a 'top secret' stamp, it tends to scare people, unless you know how meaningless it is."

"Sir, at the time you participated in the copying sessions, you believed, did you not, that classified material could not be given to a person unless he had a security clearance?" asked the prosecutor.

"I believed that the rules were such that we were breaking them because the rules were designed to serve special interests. If a government official had some classified information that supported what he wanted to do, he would leak it. Always in Vietnam the U.S. government was passing out classified information that would tend to make them look good. If it didn't make them look good, then the strict rules applied and it couldn't be given out. Everybody who has any contact with the system knows that."

The cross-examination closed with a sharp exchange. "Have you been a delegate to the International Commission of Inquiry into U.S. Crimes in Indochina?" asked the prosecutor.

"Yes, I was a delegate last October," answered Russo.

"Have you undertaken during the course of this trila, sir, to influence any witness in his testimony?"

"No, I have not."

"During court proceedings, sir, you did in the courtroom hand to a government witness, William DePuy, a defense press release accusing him of being a war criminal, did you not sir?"

"I did," replied Russo, "and I do think that General DePuy is a war criminal."

Russo's testimony came on the heals of impressive testimony from Adrian Fisher, Stuart Loory, Howard Zinn, former Senator Ernest Gruening, Don Luce, Tom Hayden and Noam Chomsky.

Even though the White House had just floated presiding judge William Matthew Byrne's name as a possible nominee for FBI director, Byrne allowed all of these witnesses to testify as national defense "experts."

Zinn told the jury that the war was about "special interests, not the national interest. Maybe some corporations are interested in rubber, tin and oil." Chomsky added that the war involved "aggression", not the national defense of the United States.

Hayden delivered a comprehensive summary and analysis of the "negotiations" volumes of the Pentagon Papers. These volumes are still classified since Ellsberg did not release them to the public.

Hayden said that the U.S. feared negotiations. The U.S. anti-war movement, international public opinion and the 1968 Tet offensive finally brought the U.S. to the Paris peace talks, Hayden testified.

Ellsberg is in the process of testifying now. His testimony was interrupted when his attorney, Leonard Boudin, became ill.

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(The Pentagon Papers Defense Committee is greatly in debt. Contributions can be sent to the Defense Committee at 125 West 4 Street, Room 618, Los Angeles, Ca. 90013.)

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(DEFENSE FOR SPANISH WORKERS;.. continued from page 6)

Between immense U.S. military installations (the U.S. has over 30,000 troops in Spain) and American corporate investments, U.S. committments to Spain virtually keep the Franco regime afloat. Therefore, it is hoped that public support from the United States for the Workers Commission move- and the Carabanchel 10 will have an even greater impact than the European support has had.

The Committee is hoping to enlist the aid of U.S. trade union groups as well as groups interested in civil liberties to form a mass base of support for the prisoners. They would like people and groups to: protest to the Franco regime about the repression of the Workers Commission movement, either directly or through local consuls; to call on their own unions to support the Workers Commission; and to help raise funds to send legal observers to the trial.

For more information, contact the U.S. Committee for the Carabanchel 10, 9 East 40th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10018.

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MAY 20, 1972: Armed Farces Day. All across the country, thousands of GI's demonstrate against the military. Newport Harbor is "mined" with balloons. 400 sailors from Great Lakes and Glenview bases lead 2000 civilians in march.

MAY 21, 1972: Three sailors from the carrier Ticonderoga take sanctuary in a San Diego as their ship leaves for Vietnam.

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THE GREEN BERETS AT HOME & ABROAD:
"ANYTHING, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE, ANY HOW"

LIBERATION News Service

"This allows us to practice organizing support among indigenous people, which is something we had to do in Vietnam and is needed in almost every way."

--Major General Henry E. Emerson, commander of the JFK Center for Military Assistance at Ft. Bragg where all Green Berets are trained.

"Anything, any time, any place, any how."

--motto of the Green Berets

NEW YORK (LNS)--"The story of the United States Army Special Forces [the Green Berets] dates back at least to the French and Indian Wars, when Major Robert Rogers formed his 'Rangers' from the New Hampshire state militia to conduct 'unconventional warfare' against the Indians," explains "A History of the Special Forces" in Veritas, the Green Beret's official magazine.

The historical account never explains what "unconventional warfare" against the Indians actually meant. But by the time of the Vietnam war, it had come to mean everything from recruiting Vietnamese as informers and training them in counterinsurgency, to regular search and destroy missions, and pacification programs designed to "win the hearts and minds" of the people.

Or--as a popular Marine saying goes, "Get the people by the balls and their hearts and minds will follow."

And now it seems that the Green Berets are trying to win the hearts and minds of poor Third World and white people in this country as well. In at least four separate incidents over the past few years, Green Beret activities have been discovered.

* * *

The Green Berets, as they are known today, were the brain child of John F. Kennedy who fancied the idea of a world-wide, inconspicuous, anti-communist peace keeping force. They figured very early in the Vietnam war as some of the first American "advisors."

"The 'Big Picture' films at Fort Dix had told me all about Special Forces," writes George Smith in his book POW: Two Years With the Vietcong. "Be a hero, have fun, make big money. Special Forces paid you per mission--some places in South America it was forty dollars a day.

"In the adventure films, Special Forces skied, blew up bridges, jumped into previously unexplored areas, and conducted guerrilla operations in oppressed countries. That was the Special Forces mission: we would infiltrate (not necessarily with the permission of the government of the country), equip the people with weapons and train them to fight guerrilla wars and overthrow unpopular or oppressive governments. We studied the tactics of Rogers' Rangers and read Mao Tse-tung's handbook..."

"Guerrilla warfare is what we volunteered for," continues Smith, who joined the Green Berets in 1961. "nearly everybody had the same attitude: we were going to be guerrilla fighters and overthrow unpopular governments. But somewhere along the line, they turned the whole thing around. 'Since you are guerrilla fighters and are capable of training people to fight guerrilla warfare,' they told us, 'you should be equally capable of training people to combat guerrilla warfare'

"They wanted us to combat insurgency and of course the application would be in South Vietnam.... The Special Forces were assuming this new counter-insurgency role, and therefore more teams needed to go into different countries--Laos, Vietnam, and the Congo. My group, the Fifth, was initially assigned to Africa and I thought we were going to the Congo. In the end we went to Vietnam."

Today the Green Berets are officially out of Vietnam though who knows how many of the "civilian" advisors who remain have a green beret tucked away in their luggage. And there's little doubt that the Special Forces are still active in other Southeast Asian countries

Michael Klare points out in his book War Without End, "since 1962, Green Berets have worked with troops of every Latin American nation except Mexico, Cuba and Haiti...Special Forces activity always peaks when a country is threatened by an insurgent movement." It was Special Forces who helped hunt down Che Guevara in the mountains of Bolivia in 1967, for instance.

Pacification is a particularly important aspect of the Green Berets' work--and a very unsuccessful program with regard to Vietnam. "By mid-1965," says "A History of the Special Forces", "the men...had assumed wide-ranging tasks. These included assistance to civilian agencies in dredging canals in enemy-held territory, improving refugee camps, and the liberation of many enemy-controlled villages."

However, others do not agree with the rosy picture the Green Berets paint. In the Pentagon Papers for example, there is a copy of a memorandum sent to President Kennedy by John Kenneth Galbraith, then U.S. Ambassador to India.

He says, "There is consequent danger we shall replace the French as the colonial force in the area (Vietnam) and bleed as the French did. The political effects of some of the measures which pacification requires or is believed to require, including the concentration of population, relocation of villages, and the burning of old villages, may be damaging to those and especially to Westerners associated with it."

Torture is another tactic the Special Forces use to bring about pacification although their own "History" neglects to mention it. SP/4 Steven Noetzel, 5th Special Forces Group Augmentation, gave the following testimony at the Winter Soldier Investigation convened in Detroit in early 1971. "In January or February of 1964, I'm not sure exactly which, I witnessed a public display of electrical torture of Vietnamese prisoners.

"A captain there, the commander of the A Team, had conjured up a system of electrical torture whereby they took a Sony tape recorder, a plain tape recorder with the U-meters on it, and hooked that up with some field telephone batteries and a toggle switch, that was held under the table by a Special Forces sergeant. Then the captain asked questions of a prisoner, who was stripped naked, and electrodes from those field telephones were attached to the back of his neck, to his armpits, to his genitals, and his

feet. He was told that this apparatus was a lie detector, that he would be interrogated and that everytime he didn't tell the truth, the machine would give him a shock."

"Their [the Green Berets'] ability to wage aggressive combat was finely balanced," said "A History of the Special Forces", "with their ability to conduct civic action projects, such as building schools, hospitals, town meeting halls and government buildings."

But former Green Beret George Smith disagrees. "I was a good medic. . . .during the year of going to school eight hours a day I had learned almost as much as a doctor. . . .They taught me all these things to do and when I reached Vietnam they gave me a first aid kit--lots of Band-Aids and a roll of sterile gauze and a vial of merthiolate....Going out to the surrounding villages and holding sick call was standard practice in Special Forces. It was good public relations, but it wasn't effective. It was like going out passing out lollipops."

So now the Special Forces are passing out lollipops in the United States too. In the past few years the Green Berets have been sent out to a number of poor communities in the U.S. to work on "community action projects". These projects include working with Indians, poor whites, blacks and Chicanos in such varied parts of the country as California, Florida, Arizona and North and South Carolina.

Last spring, El Grito de Norte, a Chicano paper published in New Mexico, discovered that a group of Special Forces troops were planning to parachute into New Mexico and practice their medical training on poor Chicano and Indian families.

"If someone cuts himself real bad, why they can patch him up," explained Sgt. John P. Pardieu, a U.S. Army recruiting officer in New Mexico. "And the community can see the people who are protecting them, these Special Forces. You can sleep better at night, as the saying goes."

Women shouldn't be afraid to go to Green Berets for help delivering their babies, said Pardieu, because "they do it in Vietnam, all over the world."

After the adverse publicity in El Grito and some agitation by other Chicano groups, the plan was scrapped.

But now, less than a year later, the Green Berets are trying another assault on New Mexico. In the last couple of months, reports Seers Catalogue, a community paper from Albuquerque, officers from the Ft. Bragg Special Forces Center approached several Indian organizations in New Mexico about the possibility of "working with them to develop their communities."

The officers had been in New Mexico for three weeks surveying the Indian communities, getting lists of community projects and "just generally finding out how Special Forces could benefit the communities of New Mexico." They said the Special Forces were going to be involved in "community development as well as military development;" that their job was to make military resources available for community use.

They said that the Indians could use military road equipment provided by the Forces and that they would be able to help with community funding--coordinating their OEO money and showing the Indians how to use it more efficiently. (Considering the Nixon Administration's dismantling of OEO, that offer seems a little strange.)

Seer's Catalogue put it this way: "The Special Forces are trying to use New Mexico as a practice environment for their counter-insurgency strategy. A poor state, with a rugged environment, and a non-Anglo people, New Mexico makes an ideal setting for their training, particularly for their Latin American operations.

"But the Special Forces are not just practicing their strategies. It seems to be directly in control itself and manipulates the communities it projects as potential trouble spots, namely the poor Chicano and Indian communities."

In rural North Carolina in the summer of 1972, Green Berets were assigned to a camp of migrant black farmworkers who had come up from Florida. They passed out hot meals, clothes, and medicine--things greatly needed in the desperately poor camps.

Said Lt. DeAngelo, who was in charge of the mission, "We come down, talk to these people, find out their lifestyle, and try to give them some self-respect by showing we care. Unless somebody does that, there is just no one here....to keep them out of trouble."

The emphasis of the Green Berets' domestic programs, said a woman who works with the Ft. Bragg GI project, "is not only to prove to local residents that the Special Forces are good guys, but to also train men for the administration of cities and towns in the event of an emergency."

An example of this is Orangeburg, South Carolina, the scene of numerous racial protests over the past few years. In February of 1968, in what has come to be called the Orangeburg Massacre, three black college students were shot down by highway patrolmen during a peaceful protest. A black activist, Cleveland Sellers, was later charged with inciting to riot.

In October of 1972, this same city was picked to hold a training program which would initiate Green Berets in the workings of city government. The Berets conducted a survey about the city government and then gave suggestions for improvement.

As the Fayetteville Observer (the pro-military, establishment paper published outside of Ft. Bragg) put it, "by working person to person with civilian counterparts there was an additional understanding of each other and with the showing concern and sincerity, plus a willingness to do more than just talk [the operation] made Orangeburg a 'pro-military' city....The army went a long way, at least in Orangeburg, toward regaining the respect and loyalty of the people of this country."

Another Green Beret operation, that took place last July in Alabaster, Georgia was even more ominous. The Mayor and Chief of Police were kidnapped by five National Guard Special Forces "apparently," said the New York Times, "attempting to inject some hostile-village realism into summer maneuvers."

The mayor supposedly had been told that the National Guard Special Forces were going to kidnap a young lawyer who had been assigned to go around with him for three days and "learn about city government". He turned out to be a Green Beret, "their inside man" as the mayor put it.

The mayor and the chief of police were surrounded by five Green Berets with M-16s and pistols and handcuffed and taken to a wooded area.

The county sheriff who got called in on the case suspected that a judge would be the next victim and

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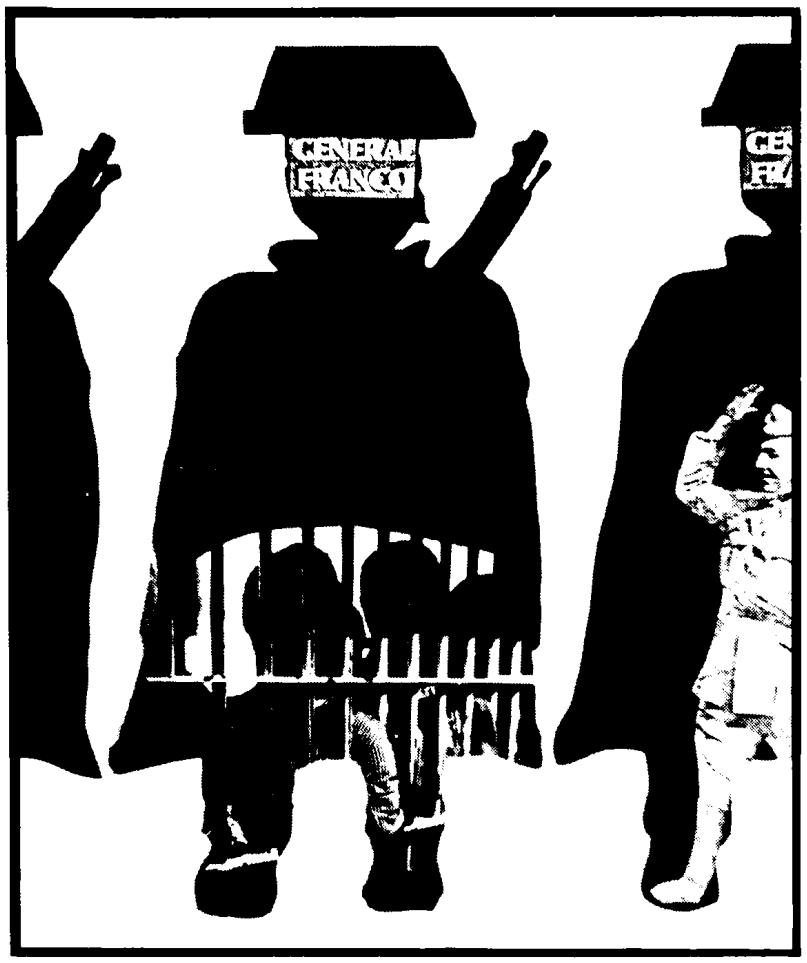
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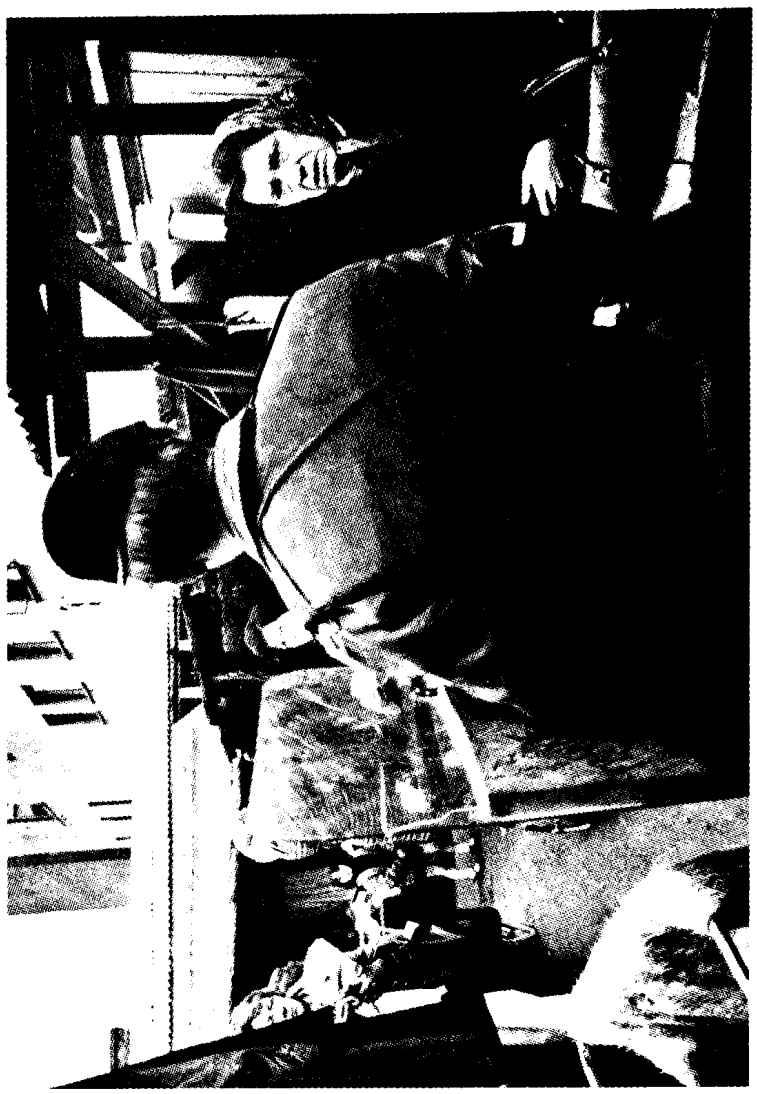
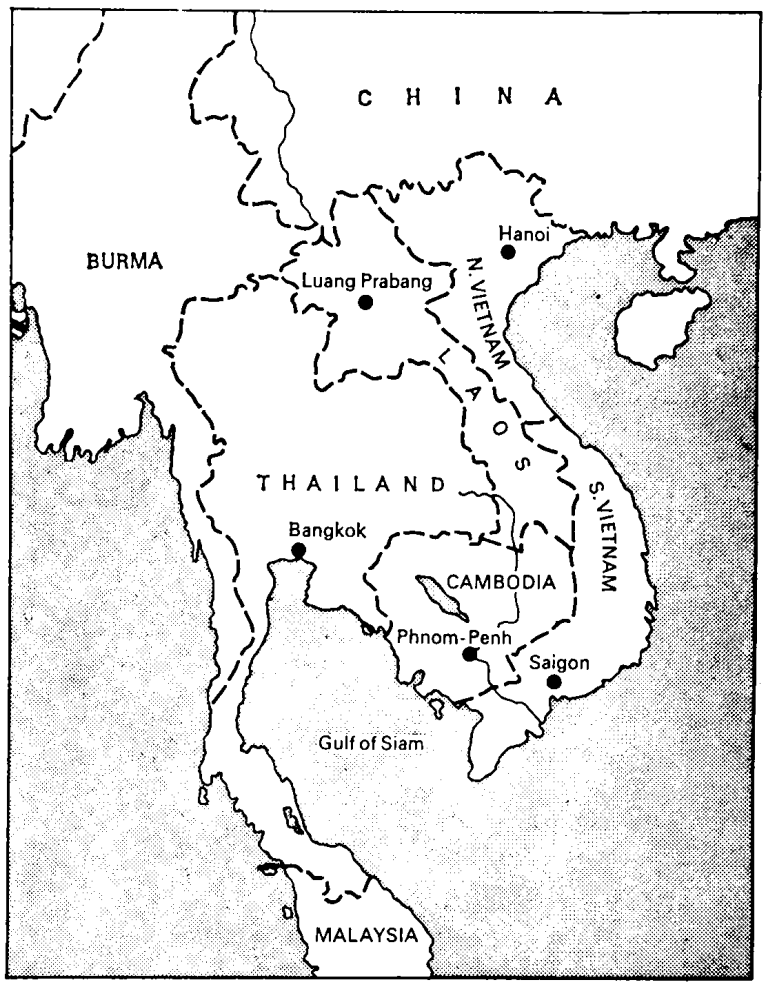


TOP RIGHT: Street scene in Northern Ireland.
Photo by P. Michael O'Sullivan
SEE STORIES IN RECENT PACKETS--#506, #509, #512, &#515.

TOP LEFT: Franco/Spain graphic.
Can go with story page 6.
CREDIT: Christer Themptander/LNS

BOTTOM: These two photos, taken in Cambodia, might be used with the Cambodia stories in this packet (p. 4) or last packet (p.19).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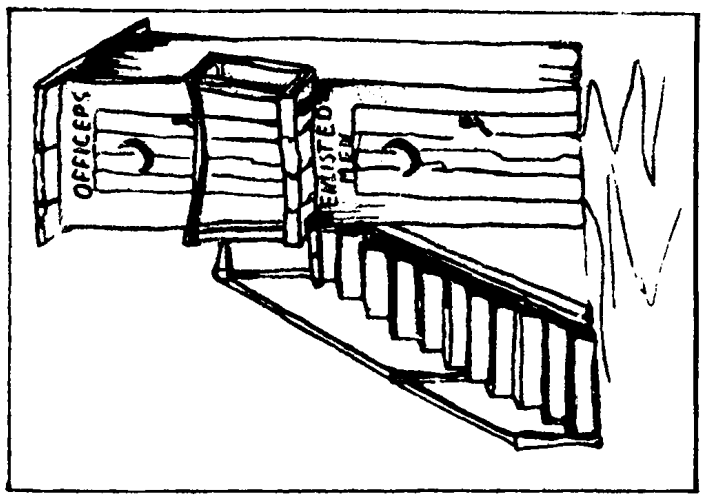
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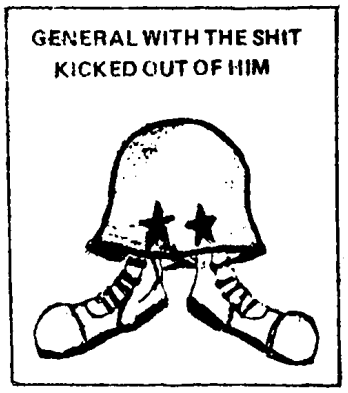
GUILTY!

DRAFT RESISTER

LET ME TURN YOUR BRAIN TO CHEESE!


GENERAL WITH THE SHIT KICKED OUT OF HIM

TOP RIGHT: Map of Southeast Asia.
May be used with Cambodia stories, p.4
this packet and p 19 last packet

TOP LEFT. Maze of TV's
CREDIT. MEDICINE JUG/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: CREDIT: HANSEN FREE PRESS/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Guilty'
CREDIT: AMEX CANADA/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT. CREDIT
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BOTTOM MIDDLE: CREDIT.
UP FROM THE BOTTOM/LNS